FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of New Mints

1607. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up some new mints in the country.

(b) if so, what are the places identified for the location of such new mints; and

(c) what are the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Consignment tax

1608. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in several States a number of industrialists produce goods in their factories and transfer them to Union Territories and other States resulting in huge financial loss to the State Exchequer:

(b) whether it is a fact that to check this menace and for removing the Constitutional hurdles, the Central Government amended the Constitution by the 46th Amendment in 1983;

(c) whether there are still issues involved which are required to be sorted out and that Government proposes to enact a law regarding consignment tax; if so what are its salient features thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the inordinate delay in doing so is proving to be favourable to some industrialists; if not, how and if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) Various State Governments had reported to the Central Government about large scale avoidance of Central Sales Tax through the transfer of consignments from one State to another and had suggested enactment of legislation for levy of consignment tax. Accordingly, the Constitution was amended through the Constitution (46th Amendment) Act, 1982 to enable, inter alia, the levy of tax on inter-State consignment of goods. Various issues connected with the proposed consignment tax were discussed in the Chief Ministers' Congerences held from time to time. The last conference held on 9th and 10th February, 1989, approved by consensus the proopsal for levy of consignment tax and various modalities connected thereto. Necessary action in the matter will be taken in the light of decisions taken/discussions held.

Arrests under NSA

1609. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of persons arrested under the National Security Act during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House.